Acceptance of LTTE demands by Sri Lanka

2092. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan President Jayawardane has agreed to the most of the demands made by the LTTE;

(b) whether it is a fact that LTTE agreed for laying down of arms and for full co-operation in the implementation of Indo-Srilankan accord;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Fourth World Tamil Eelam convention which was held in New York adopted the resolution stating that the pull out of the Indian Peace Keeping Force from Sri Lanka at this stage would endanger the lives and properties of the people of northern and eastern Eelam Tamils; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India to the call given by the LTTE for withdrawal of IPKF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Sri Lankan Government has agreed to most of the legitimate demands of Tamil groups, including the L.T.T.E., as incorporated in the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

(b) Yes, Sir but it has gone back on this commitment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government believes that any precipitate withdrawal of the IPKF at this stage will not be desirable.

Presence of U.S. warships in Arabian Sea and the Gulf regions

2093. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.A. have stationed a number of warships in the Gulf and the Arabian Sea during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have lodged any protest in this regard to the U.S. Government;

(d) whether any steps have been taken by Government for vacation of U.S. warships from the Gulf and Arabian Sea; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) U.S. warships have been stationed in the Gulf and the Arabian Sea for some time, including the last three months. The U.S. warships in this area have included an aircraft carrier, mine sweepers, guided missile destroyers and frigates.

(c) to (e) Government have consistently opposed foreign military presences in the Indian Ocean. Government also feels that great power naval presence in the Gulf aggravates tension in the Region.

Talks with China on border issues

2094. SHRI JAGDISH JANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of latest development so far made in holding the talks by the Government of India with China on pending matters including the border issue; and

(b) whether any delegation is likely to go to China for the purpose and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Eight rounds of official-level talks have been held with China to discuss issues of mutual concern, including the boundary question. The dates of the next round of talks have not yet been finalised.